

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

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REP. SOLIS REINTRODUCES CD. JUÁREZ HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION

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WASHINGTON, D.C.— In recognition of International Women's Day, Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis (CA-32), Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, and Senator Jeff Bingaman (NM) reintroduced a bipartisan House and Senate Concurrent Resolution to raise awareness, express concern and propose a set of actions to address the murders and disappearances of young women in Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua, México (H. Con. Res. 90 & S. Res).

"While we've made advances in these last years to address the murders and disappearance of young women, there were over 30 murders in Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua City over the past year. This bill calls for comprehensive bilateral efforts to end these ongoing murders," said Congresswoman Solis.

The press conference featured Ms. Elizabeth Mesa, the sister of David Mesa, who was allegedly tortured in prison and forced to falsely confess to committing the murder of his cousin Neyra Azucena Cervantes. The family of David Mesa resides in East Los Angeles, California.

The bill condemns the abductions and murders of young women in Ciudad Juárez and the city of Chihuahua in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico; expresses its deepest sympathy to the families of the young women killed in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico; urges the President and Secretary of State to express concern for the harassment of the families and support for the victims' families as they seek justice; requests that the Mexican government's investigative and preventative efforts be incorporated into the bilateral agenda between Mexico and the United States; condemns the use of torture as a means of investigation into these crimes; supports efforts by independent and impartial experts to positively identify unknown victims and to make these services available to all the victim's families with doubts about prior forensic testing; urges the Government of Mexico to review the cases in which those accused or convicted of murder were allegedly tortured or forced to confess to the crime; and urges the State of Chihuahua to ensure fair and proper judicial proceedings for the individuals accused of these abductions and murders; and to hold accountable those law enforcement officials whose negligence, omission, or abuse has led to impunity for these crimes. This bill also recognizes the special prosecutor ongoing review of cases and encourages the expansion of her mission to the city of Chihuahua; strongly supports the work of the special commissioner to prevent violence against women; condemns all senseless acts of violence, in particular, violence against women; and expresses the solidarity of

the people of the United States with the people of Mexico in the face of these tragic and senseless acts.

The original sponsors of the House Resolution include Representatives Hilda L. Solis (D-CA), Ginny Brown-Waite (R-FL), Republican Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, Louis Capps (CA-D), Democratic Vice Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Republican Vice Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, Tom Lantos (D-CA), ranking member of the International Relations Committee, Jim Ramstad (R-MN) and Silvestre Reyes (D-TX). The original sponsors of the Senate Resolution include Senators Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), John Cornyn (R-TX), Jon Corzine (D-NJ), Richard Durbin (D-IL), John Ensign (R-NV), Russell Feingold (D-WI), Diane Feinstein (D-CA), Mary Landrieu (D-LA), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Carl Levin (D-MI), Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Patty Murray (D-WA).

The bill will be referred to the House International Relations Committee for consideration.

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